A&C theJohnsonian

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WORLD WIDE WU • from front

"The excitement of getting to see everything and getting used to campus is great. I just went and got my ID made, so it's starting to finally feel real," Strother said.

Crystal Miranda, a newly admitted student planning on majoring in elementary education, said she decided to choose Winthrop for college because of its location.

"It's close to the city but not like in the middle of the city, to where I can still be safe, but still get to go out and do fun stuff," Miranda said.

Lakerria Lindsay is currently an undeclared major coming to Winthrop. To begin with, Lindsay said Winthrop was actually her second choice in colleges.

"I toured USC, and it was really big. But when I toured Winthrop, it felt more like home, because it is smaller and I feel like I would be more comfortable in a smaller environment," Lindsay said.

The "home feel" of Winthrop's campus was a common response by new students as to why they chose to come here.

"The whole campus dynamic is just so great. Everybody is just so nice and it feels like home," Strother said, reiterating Lindsay's stance.

Many organizations on campus were involved in the Student Life Showcase in an attempt to show new students all there is to do at Winthrop and to hopefully recruit new students for their organization.

Andie Davis, a math major at Winthrop, was involved in the showcase with the Academic Success Center.

"We are advertising for the courses that we tutor and also, in order to let the upcoming freshman know what we tutor, what courses they might need help in. Or if they don't think they need help, we're advertising to get new tutors because we need more," Davis said.

Emily Murphy, the editor-in-chief of Her Campus, said that she wished she could have gone to Worldwide Winthrop Day when she was an incoming student.

"I'm from Connecticut, so I couldn't come to Worldwide Winthrop Day when I was an incoming freshman, and I think it would have really helped me with the transition to coming to college to see how much there is to do on campus," Murphy said.

After not being involved in organizations her first semester on campus, Murphy is now an advocate for getting involved.

"My first semester here I wasn't involved at all, and now while being involved I look back and see how much happier I am now than I was then, and really see that whatever you get involved in helps the transition so much," Murphy said.

With so many organizations promoting themselves in one area, it can be difficult to get new students to visit your booth. The Academic Success Center held a raffle for a free t-shirt and Her Campus gave out free stuff from their sponsors while also holding an Instagram give-away.

Micahla Thomas, a marketing major and member of DSU, revealed that they had their own unique way to draw students to their booth.

"We have a little spin-wheel, and you can win a free prize. We have wristbands, popsicles and water bottles. I think that's really bringing people in and people honestly just want to spin the wheel, they're not even concerned about a prize," Thomas said.

There were also various sororities and fraternities at the event to talk to incoming freshman about their organization.

Ali Eastham, a member of Chi Omega sorority, said her sorority came out to recruit new members and to let new students know who they are. She said that she thinks it's important to hold these types of events for new students to show them all there is to do on campus.

"Because Winthrop is such a small school, it kind of gets a stigma that there's not a lot that goes on here. So I think for incoming freshman, it's really important for them to know what they're going to get themselves into and know that we're not just a suitcase school where everyone goes home every weekend," Eastham said.

To see more photos from Worldwide Winthrop Day, you can search #wucelebremix on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Carolyn Rennix / The Johnsonian

(Top) Early childhood education major Chelsea Brown speaking to an incoming freshman about Winthrop's Panhellenic Council Saturday afternoon during the Student Life Showcase. (Bottom) CSL President Ray McKetty and mass communication major Diant'e Gibbs informing students and parents about the student body government at World Wide Winthrop Day.

Creative Writers Reading Series: Metta-Sáma Melvin

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Winthrop University is a well respected institution of higher education, and it welcomes students to participate in a number of events that widen their social and cultural understandings.

This past Wednesday evening in McBryde's Tuttle Dining room, many students were again welcomed and encouraged to visit with Metta-Sáma Melvin, guest speaker and lecturer.

Melvin is not only an assistant professor in creative writing, but she is also a popular poet with many published works such as Nocturne Trio and South of Here. Her visit to Winthrop University was a part of the Creative Writers Reading Series, sponsored by the South Carolina Humanities Council.

Melvin's discussion on some of the aspects of writing and reading of a few of her own pieces left many audience members, on occasion, laughing as well as in awe.

Junior English major Mitch Postich was one of many audience members who were inspired by the works that Melvin shared with the crowd on Wednesday evening.

"She had a very methodical way about constructing her poems. It was very heavily based on the message and theme, and how to use the form to emphasize those themes," Postich said.

Althea Holenko / The Johnsonian

"I had read some of her poetry before and admired it, but hearing her read it out loud was a really different, more accessible experience."

Postich was among many other students who enjoyed the event and hopes to see more like it in the future.

"Just being around a great poet with a great mind like that, and hearing her thoughts on how she wrote poetry and put it together had a really powerful effect on me," Postich said. "It really expanded my conception of what poetry could be used for. It helped me out, as a budding creative writer who has had trouble getting into poetry. She showed me a way into that world."

He believes that Winthrop chose a space that was tailored to the expected audience size and helped dramatize the reading.

"She performed in front of a big window with a nice view as the sun was setting, and it got darker and darker as she went on," Postich said.

Postich appreciated Winthrop's and those in the English Department's roles in inviting speakers like Melvin and previous guest speaker, Stephanie Elizondo Griest.

"I feel really lucky and enriched seeing those two, and I definitely intend to continue coming to these for as long as Winthrop is getting great writers to speak," Postich said.

Melvin's visit to Winthrop encouraged and inspired student writers and many wait and hope for even more similar experiences and events.

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